

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO DIA WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCEUR//ECJ4/7-SAME//ECJ2//
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 1351

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU, PORS, PINS
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISORY ROLE IN KUWAIT

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B. KUWAIT 0544 DTG 030850Z FEB 75 (PASEP)

1. KUWAIT HAS LOOKED TO EGYPT FOR MILITARY ADVICE IN THE PAST
IN AT LEAST TWO AREAS: (1) AIR BASE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
AND (2) AIR DEFENSE.

2. KUWAIT HAS RECENTLY STARTED CONSTRUCTION ON TWO JET
AIRBASES WITH 9000 FOOT RUNWAYS AND REINFORCED CONCRETE AIR-
CRAFT SHELTERS. ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION IS BEING DONE BY A YUGOSLAV
FIRM KNOWN AS UNION ENGINEERING. IT APPEARS THAT THE EXPERTISE
FOR BASE DEVELOPMENT, OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, ETC. HAS BEEN
SUPPLIED BY EGYPTIAN ARMY OFFICERS. CURRENTLY RESIDENT IN KUWAIT,
EFFECTIVELY FUNCTIONING AS A PROJECT MANAGERS OFFICE, THERE ARE
THREE (PERHAPS MORE) EGYPTIAN ARMY ENGINEER OFFICERS:
COL SAMIH TEKLA; COL OWEIDA; MAJ RIFAI (ARCHITECT).
GENERAL OPINION OF USN FACILITIES EXPERTS IS THAT THESE PER-
SONNEL ARE GENERALLY HIGHLY COMPETENT CIVIL ENGINEERS AND MANAGERS.
ALSO, THAT THEY COULD HAVE USED SOME MORE CONSULTATION WITH

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EXPERIENCED AERONAUTICAL FACILITIES ENGINEERS.

3. DURING THE COURSE OF THE (JUST COMPLETED) SITE SURVEY FOR SUPPORT OF THE A4 AIRCRAFT WHICH KUWAIT IS PROCURING FROM USG, GOK AUTHORITIES ESSENTIALLY OPENED THEIR AIR BASE PLANS TO THE USN TEAM. GENERALLY EFFORT APPEARS TO BE PROFESSIONALLY COMPETENT ALTHOUGH NOT MEETING US CRITERIA FOR AIRFIELD OPERATIONAL FACILITIES, E.G. US WANTS A RUNWAY 1.6 TIMES EXPECTED HOT DAY MAX LOAD TAKEOFF ROLL, GOK PLANS WILL AFFORD A RATIO OF ABOUT 1.25. RUNWAY IS 150 FT WIDE WITH 50 FOOT GRADED SHOULDERS-US PRACTICE WOULD BE 200 FT WIDTH WITH 200FT SHOULDERS. OVERALL EFFECT OF FOREGOING IS A REDUCED SAFETY FACTOR. FIELDS WILL BE CAPABLE OF OPERATING ANY OF THE NEW US HIGH PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT (F4/F14/F15/F16/F17).

4. ONLY MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCREPANCY IN PLANS NOTED WAS THE CONCEPT OF LAUNCHING FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FROM SHELTERS DOWN 500-1000 FEET FEEDER TAXIWAYS TO RUNWAY. FEEDER TAXIWAYS INTERSECT AT 45 DEGREE ANGLES WITH RUNWAY WITHOUT FILLETS. AIRCRAFT LAUNCHING (SCRAMBLE TAKEOFF) OUT OF SHELTER COULD NOT NEGOTIATE THE TURN. ALSO. DISPOSITION OF SHELTERS IS SUCH THAT ABOUT HALF WILL BE MARGINALLY USEABLE FOR ALERT PADS DURING SUMMER MONTHS DUE TO EXTREME LOCAL TEMPERATURES (50 DEGREES C) AND STRONG PREVAILING WINDS. DOWNWIND TAKEOFFS AT 50 DEGREES C WITH 15 KNOT WINDS REQUIRE SOME VERY LONG TAKEOFF ROLLS. CAPABILITY OF AIRCRAFT TIRES TO WITHSTAND HIGH GROUND SPEEDS AND TEMPERATURES IS WORTHY OF ENGINEERING EXPERTS REVIEW.

5. IN THE AIR DEFENSE AREA, GOK HAS, IN PAST, PLACED PRIMARY RELIANCE UPON A TEAM OF EGYPTIAN OFFICERS: COL ALI MUSTAFA, COL GALIEL, COL THAWAWAT (OR THAWET, SPELLING UNCERTAIN) AND LTC SAMI (ONE APPEARANCE). THE FIRST THREE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED ON SOVIET ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN THE USSR. MUSTAFA AND SAMI SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH, GALIEL POOR-FAIR, AND THAWAWAT EXTREMELY POOR.

6. PROFESSIONAL CALIBRE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THESE PERSONNEL ARE IMPRESSIVE. MUSTAFA IN PARTICULAR IS AN ELECTRONIC ENGINEER AND A BATTLE-EXPERIENCED OPERATIONAL AA DEFENSE OFFICER WHO HAS SPENT TWO YEARS IN THE USSR IN TRAINING ON SA2,3,6 AND ZSU-23. HE IS QUITE FIRM IN HIS RECOMMENDATIONS, EVEN THO KUWAIT
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MILITARY DOES NOT LIKE THEM AND PROVIDES HIS OPINIONS IN WRITING TO THE MINDEF, SHAIKH SA'AD. SO FAR, HIS RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE HELD. US DOD PERSONNEL HAVE FOUND NO POINT OF SUBSTANCE WHERE THEY HAVE DISAGREED WITH MUSTAFA. IN PASSING, HE IS PROBABLY THE MAIN REASON WHY GOK HAS PROCURED IHAWK AND AN/TPS-32 RADARS. HE IS COMPLETELY CONVINCED IHAWK IS THE BEST AA MISSILE SYSTEM AVAILABLE FROM EITHER THE WESTERN POWERS OR SOVIET BLOC. IF AN IHAWK SALESMAN IS NEEDED IN

THE ARAB WORLD, COL MUSTAFA IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

7. A LITTLE KNOWN EGYPTIAN OFFICER IS A MAJOR OR LIEUTENANT GENERAL SABAI (SPELLING AND NAME UNCERTAIN) WHO IS REPUTED TO BE A PERSONAL, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE MINDEF. AT A MEETING WITH TWO KUWAITI BRIGADIERS, 3 KUWAIT COLONELS, 3 KUWAIT LTC'S, 1 SECONDED UK COLONEL, 1 SECONDED UK CDR (NAVY), 1 SECONDED UK LTC (RAF WGCDR), COL GALIEL, COL THAWAWAT, LTC SAMI AND ONE USMC COLONEL, DISCUSSING A CONCEPT FOR A KUWAIT MILITARY COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM, (CURRENTLY IT IS THE COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM) THIS OFFICER WALKED IN WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHING. HE WAS NOT INTRODUCED AND OBVIOUSLY NEEDED NO INTRODUCTION TO THE THREE EGYPTIAN OFFICERS. (THEY SPRANG TO ATTENTION ETC) WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ONE OF THE KUWAITI BRIGADIERS NONE RPT NONE OF THE KUWAITI OR SECONDED UK OFFICERS KNEW WHO HE WAS.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2604

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO DIA WASHDC

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THEY HAVE ADMITTED THIS TO EMBASSY'S DOD REP (THE USMC COL). THE ONE BRIGADIER (ABDULLAH FARRAJ) WHO MIGHT POSSIBLE HAVE KNOWN HIM IS RARELY SEEN (BY US, SECONDED UK OR KUWAITI OFFICERS) AND IS ESSENTIALLY A NON-EFFECTIVE APPARENTLY BROUGHT FORTH ON THE OCCASION FOR INTERNAL PROTOCOL REASONS. (OTHER KUWAITI BRIGADIER WAS FROM THE "SUBORDINATE" AIR FORCE). WITH THIS EXCEPTION, THE KUWAITI OFFICERS WERE THE BEST, YOUNG WESTERN EDUCATED OFFICERS

IN THEIR ARMED FORCES. ALSO, ONLY THE COMMANDER AND DEPUTY THEMSELVES (BOTH MAJ GEN) HAVE MORE RESPECT/AUTHORITY OR RANK.

8. AT THE PRESENT TIME, REALIABLE SOURCES (BOTH KUWAIT MILITARY AND SECONDED UK OFFICERS) HAVE INFORMED US THAT AN EGYPTIAN TEAM IS IN KUWAIT TO DISCUSS COMMANDO TRAINING FOR KUWAIT ARMY (PRIMARILY ENLISTED) PERSONNEL IN EGYPT. (IN LOCAL CONTEXT, COMMANDO HAS A MEANING CLOSER TO INFANTRY THAN THE MEANING ASSOCIATED WITH BRITISH UNITS.) NEITHER THE SECONDED UK OFFICERS OR USMC COL HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THESE DISCUSSIONS. UK OFFICERS HAVE HAD SIGHTINGS OF TEAM, HOWEVER.

9. WHILE EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE IN MILITARY MATTERS APPEARS TO BE WANING (SEE REFTEL B) WITH KUWAITIS WANTING TO TURN MORE TO USG, IT IS STILL HERE. KUWAITIS ARE OBVIOUSLY KEEPING THESE OPTIONS
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OPEN UNTIL USG INTENTIONS IN MILITARY MATTERS ARE CLEAR AND RELIABILITY DEMONSTRATED. OUR SLUGGISH RESPONSES TO THEIR REQUESTS ARE KEEPING THEM (AND EMBASSY KUWAIT) UNCERTAIN.

10. EMBASSY KUWAIT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CAIRO OPINIONS AND ANY OBSERVATIONS/INFORMATION THEY MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPLY FROM TIME TO TIME, PARTICULARLY ON EGYPTIAN GENERAL OFFICER DISCUSSED PARA 6.
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